

## Important Laws

Many laws exist to protect the rights of Deaf/HH people. For information about the following laws, contact the DODHH

- ◆ Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- ◆ Michigan Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act
- ◆ Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act
- ◆ Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- ◆ Hearing Aid Compatibility Act
- ◆ Extra Tax Exemption for Deaf or Hard of Hearing persons
- ◆ Deaf Person's Interpreter Act.
- ◆ Hearing & Service Dog Acts.
- ◆ American Sign Language Act



## Myths of Deaf & Hard of Hearing

- ◆ Deaf/HH people have below average intelligence
- ◆ Deaf/HH people can't talk.
- ◆ Lipreading is as easy as listening.
- ◆ Hearing aids provide normal hearing.
- ◆ Deaf/HH people cannot drive vehicles.
- ◆ When Deaf/HH people nod their head it means 'yes' or 'I agree.'
- ◆ Deaf people cannot raise hearing children.
- ◆ HH people can hear when they want to.

## Promoting Communication

- ◆ Get the deaf/hh person's attention before you begin to speak.
- ◆ Face the person and maintain eye contact throughout the conversation.
- ◆ Make certain the deaf/hh person can see your mouth and face.
- ◆ Stand or sit with the light source shining on your face.
- ◆ Converse in a quiet place.
- ◆ Enunciate clearly and normally.
- ◆ Use your voice but don't shout.
- ◆ Use facial expressions and body language to clarify your message.
- ◆ Rephrase sentences that deaf/hh person's do not understand.

### Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing

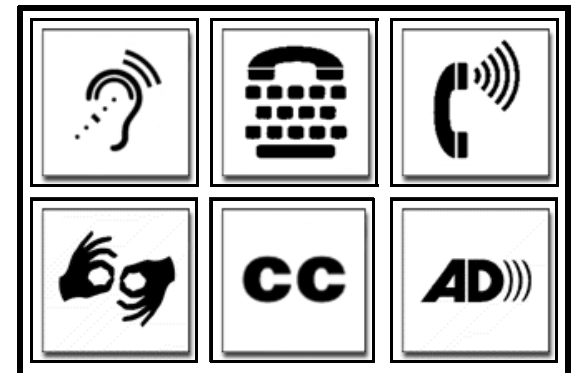
320 North Washington Square  
Suite 250  
Lansing, MI 48913  
877-499-6232 T/V (Toll-free)  
517-334-8000 T/V  
517-334-6637 Fax  
DODHH@michigan.gov  
www.mcdc-dodhh.org

Copies printed: 5000 – Total cost: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_ ea.)  
Authority: DODHH Director / P.A. 434 of 1988  
DODHH Pub: 101 (7/04)

The Department of Labor and Economic Growth will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, political beliefs or disability. If you need assistance with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are invited to make your needs known to this agency.

# Division On Deaf & Hard of Hearing

*Affirming the indisputable right of  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons  
to secure effective communication.*



*Removing Communication Barriers*



## Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing

The Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing (DODHH) is a state agency within the Commission on Disability Concerns in the Family Independent Agency, established by P.A. 72 of 1937, amended by P. A. 434 of 1988, to protect and assist people with hearing loss.

### Services

#### *Technical Assistance and Information*

- ◆ Information source for consumers, legislators, government agencies and businesses.
- ◆ Assessment and advisement for accessibility of programs and services.
- ◆ Information source for state agencies involved in policy development.
- ◆ Orientation to Hearing Loss seminars to police and courts, government staff, private businesses, consumers and others.
- ◆ Maintain website service.
- ◆ Conduct general workshops and seminars related to hearing loss issues.



**International symbol  
of  
hearing loss**

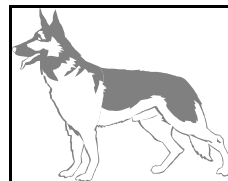
### *Interpreter Information & Testing Program*

- ◆ Assist state agencies and the public in locating qualified oral and sign-language interpreters.
- ◆ Administer statewide Quality Assurance Interpreter Screening Program.
- ◆ Conduct interpreter information workshops.
- ◆ Publish annual interpreter directory.
- ◆ National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf approved CMP/CEU Sponsor



### *Auxiliary Aids & Assistive Devices*

- ◆ Information and training on TTYs, assistive listening devices, signaling devices.
- ◆ Maintain a list of assistive devices and vendors.
- ◆ Maintain list of real-time captionist.
- ◆ Maintain a list of trainers for hearing & service dogs.



### *Programs*

- ◆ Silent Retreats
- ◆ Deaf/Blind Interpreter Training Program
- ◆ Town Hall Meetings
- ◆ Police Training Program

### *Publications*

- ◆ THE DODHH BULLETIN
- ◆ THE MICHIGAN TTY, SERVICE AND INTERPRETER DIRECTORY
- ◆ Visor Card – Communication Access Needs



- ◆ Police and Deaf/Hard of Hearing Persons Card
- ◆ ADA Card

### **Advisory Council**

A 13 member Advisory Council is made up of citizens and professionals from around the state who understand the needs of deaf and hard of hearing people. The council works to improve and expand services to persons with hearing loss in Michigan.